Respiratory syncytial virus in very young children of NSW, Australia

Speaker: Dr Nusrat Homaira, paediatric respiratory epidemiologist and PhD student at the School of Women’s and Children’s Health, UNSW

Venue: Room 305, Level 3, Samuels Building, UNSW upper campus, Randwick

Date: Wednesday 11th February 2015

Time: 12:00-1:00pm (light refreshment is provided)
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Parking: Available on L5 of the parking station; enter via Gate 11 Botany St, Randwick
Map: http://www.unsw.edu.au/maps/maps.html

ABSTRACT
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a leading cause of childhood respiratory morbidity. We aimed to estimate the rates of RSV hospitalization in children aged <5 in New South Wales (NSW), Australia. We performed a retrospective cohort analysis using population linked data provided by the Centre for Health Record Linkage. Records of all NSW births from the Perinatal Data Collection and all NSW hospitalizations from the Admitted Patient Data Collection between 2001-2010 were extracted and linked to estimate the rates of RSV associated hospitalizations. There were a total of 780,458 new episodes of all cause associated hospitalizations contributing to 4,567,266 child-years at risk. In total, 78,260 new episodes of acute lower respiratory hospitalizations of which 17,856 (23%) episodes associated with RSV were identified. The incidences of RSV hospitalizations/1000 child-years were 24 for 0-3 months, 16 for 3-6 months, 8 for 6-12 months, 2 for 12-24 months and 0.2 for 2-5 years. Our data suggest RSV was associated with a substantial number of childhood hospitalization in NSW, particularly in children aged <6 months of age. Further research to develop and evaluate the efficacy of RSV specific interventions may help in reducing the burden.

BIOGRAPHY
Nusrat Homaira is a paediatric respiratory epidemiologist with eight years working experience in the field of maternal and child health, outbreak investigations and paediatric respiratory disease. Her work has evolved around establishing surveillance for paediatric viral respiratory illness and estimating the disease burden in low income setting. She also has extensive experience of working in collaboration with the Government. Nusrat is a medical doctor by training and has a Master’s in Public Health. Currently Nusrat is a full time PhD student under the School of Women’s and Children’s health at the UNSW, Australia. Her PhD research is based on determining the burden and risk factors for respiratory viral infections in high-risk infants and children using population-based large linked data set.